

Message Text

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EXDIS MIL ADDEES HANDLE AS SPECAT EXCLUSIVE

E.O. 11652:GDS

TAGS:PARM, NATO

SUBJECT:MBFR: NATO TREATMENT OF OPTION III

REFS: A. NATO 1967, B. STATE 19705, C. NATO 2315,

D. NATO 2430, E. NATO 2473, F. STATE 116434

1. WE AGREE WITH MISSION'S RECOMMENDATION (PARA 4, REFTTEL C)
THAT WHEN THE US PROPOSES IN NAC AN UPDATE OF SHAPE ASSESS-
MENT, THE US WILL PROPOSE THAT MC CHAIRMAN MAKE THE REQUEST

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TO SHAPE.

2. REGARDING PARA 5 OF REFTTEL C, WE BELIEVE ALLIED NEED FOR EXPERT LEVEL MILITARY-TECHNICAL ANALYSIS CAN BE ADEQUATELY SATISFIED BY UPDATING THE SHAPE ASSESSMENT AND BY HAVING PRESENT AT SPC MEETINGS THE MC REP AND US EXPERTS WHO WILL BE PREPARED TO ANSWER MILITARY-TECHNICAL QUESTIONS. AS MISSION NOTES, ALLOWING AN ALLIED MILITARY-TECHNICAL STUDY OF OPTION III ISSUES COULD UNACCEPTABLY SHIFT FOCUS AWAY FROM POLICY ISSUES. BEGIN FYI: WE ARE STRONGLY OPPOSED TO WORKING GROUP CONSIDERATION OF OPTION III ISSUES AS A WHOLE. HOWEVER, WE WOULD NOT WISH TO FORECLOSE OPTION OF ASSIGNING WG NARROW AND SPECIFIC TASKS AGAINST TIGHT DEADLINES, IF WE LATER DETERMINE THAT, BY SO DOING, WE COULD MOVE EXPEDITIOUSLY TOWARD ALLIANCE CONSENSUS ON USE OF OPTION III. END FYI.

3. WE AGREE WITH MISSION (PER REFTTEL E) THAT MC COMMENT ON UPDATED SHAPE ASSESSMENT MIGHT BE HELPFUL IN SATISFYING UK INTEREST IN MC INVOLVEMENT IN ALLIANCE CONSULTATIONS ON OPTION III. MISSION MAY THEREFORE SUPPORT REQUEST FOR EXPEDITIOUS MC COMMENT.

4. IN VIEW OF CHANGE IN TIMING OF INTRODUCTION OF US VIEWS PAPER IN NAC (PER REFTTEL F), GUIDANCE ON OTHER ISSUES WILL FOLLOW SEPTELS. INGERSOLL

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